

Senate Hears Bush On CIA Appointment

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — George Bush told the Senate Armed Services Committee — politicians all — that being a politician was a noble calling and certainly should not prevent him from being made Director of Central Intelligence.

He also testified Monday that he didn't want to be vice president, that he wouldn't seek the job or let anybody else seek it for him, but if President Ford asked him to leave the CIA to run as his vice president, well, how could he refuse?

All but one of the senators in that room were in the same position. That one was Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., a former presidential candidate, who said he recommended Bush to both Ford and Richard Nixon as vice president, and that no one can really tell when and how a vice president would be selected.

Bush was confronting the questions some senators raised in the courtesy calls he paid upon them in the six days he has been back from Peking, where he was the U.S. representative to the People's Republic of China.

Bush said he had not been extensively briefed because of his short period back in the United States and that his selection was a total surprise. "I was riding my bicycle, coming home from church," he said, "and a messenger came up to me and said, 'I have a message for you.' And I opened the telegram, and it came to me out of the blue — out of the cold, blue China sky. And I thought about it — not for long."

"I do not view political experience as a detriment," Bush said. "I view it as an asset; but I also recognize the need to leave politics behind the minute I take on the new job, if confirmed."

But, Sen. Thomas McIntyre, D-N.H., asked, just suppose that next spring, the President calls you to the White House, that he says he's in political trouble, and "he wants you to dig up some dirt on Ronald Reagan. He's

a former movie star and he travels in some pretty fast company — I don't know, maybe he travels in some pretty slow company for a movie star..."

"If something came up as you describe," Bush replied, "I would say no. I can't imagine that an incumbent would do that, but when you have a clear moral choice, I would say no."

What if the President orders you to assassinate a foreign leader in peacetime, asked Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo.

Bush said he found it "morally offensive" and would resign and even tell Congress if he got such an order. "I feel strongly enough about that one," he said, "that I would get off."

What about domestic intelligence gathering?

"Generally speaking," said Bush, "the CIA ought to butt out of the domestic business."

Assassination Out As CIA 'Weapon'

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Sen. Frank Church says he intends to take assassination out of the CIA's bag of spy tricks.

The Idaho Democrat running the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence said Monday he will introduce legislation to establish "criminal sanctions" against officials involved in any assassination plots. He said his whole committee will sponsor the bill.

After 11 months of hearings and investigation, the Church committee is winding up its work, drafting recommendations and legislation to prevent abuses by the intelligence community.

During the hearings, several schemes involving assassination plots and proposals were unveiled. In one of them, the CIA lined up two underworld figures to make an attempt on the life of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro. The effort collapsed.